

### **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims are summarized below:

- (a) The molecular weight has been amended to read "number average" consistent with original claim 3 and, for example, page 5, line 4 of the application;
- (b) All withdrawn claims have been cancelled in order to materially advance prosecution and without prejudice to the filing of a divisional patent application directed to such withdrawn claims;
- (c) Claim 33 now is the only independent claim, so dependencies have been corrected to take this into account, and it is identical in scope with original claim 33, but with the language of claim 1 written out.
- (D) New claim 74 gives the IV of the PPE component as tested in the Examples.

No new matter is added by virtue of these claim amendments.

Importantly, independent claim 33 expresses the adhesive layer on the substrate as being "unreinforced", that is, as not containing "reinforcements, such as woven or chopped fiberglass." (application at p. 1, ll. 19-20. Reinforcement is a known item in this art usually included, for example, such as even in Yeager, cited against the claims, as described at p. 18, ll. 19 bridging p. 19, l. 7. Data showed that the curable composition performed better when used not as a prepreg, but rather used as a free-standing film alone then placed on, for example, copper foil, or formed as a film on, for example, copper foil (copper foil being illustrate of substrates).

Claims 2-13, 33, 36-38, and 42 (the only claims remaining) stand rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Yeager (WO 01/40354 A1). The Examiner contends that Yeager discloses a composition that optionally contains "a fibrous reinforcement" and which may be used to "impregnate fibrous reinforcement clad with copper".

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims and grounds therefor.

Yeager specifically teaches conventional copper clad boards where prepegs are used to form the boards. Prepegs are reinforcement, e.g., glass matte, which is impregnated with the Yeager composition and which prepeg is laminated to copper foil.

The present invention, in contradistinction, expressly excludes reinforcement (*viz.*, "curable unreinforced composition". Applicants, then, go against conventional circuit board procesing and avoid prepeg formation. Yeager does not so teach and, thus, the present claims are patentable over Yeager.

Finally, Yeager's composition reported efficacy at an IV of the PPE of around 0.12 and MW of around 6,000. As the Examples in the above-identified application report, an IV of the PPE of around 0.31 gives the excellent results reported (see new claim 74). Again, the presnet invention is patentable over Yeager.

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herewith, allowance of the claims and passage to issue of this application respectfully is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

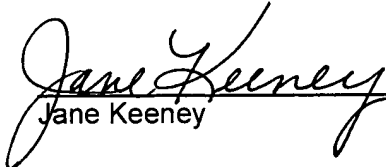
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